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# Literature

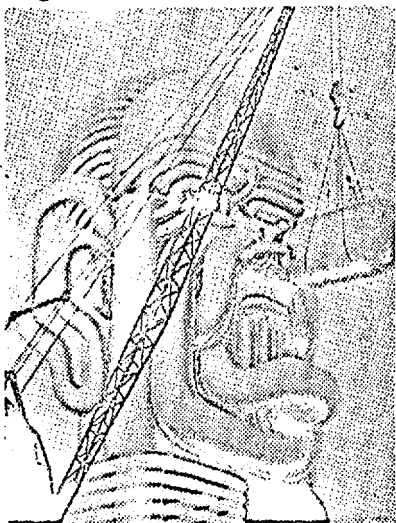
## SMETANA AND THE BEETLES: A Fairy Tale for Adults

by Albert E. Kahn

Drawings by David Levine

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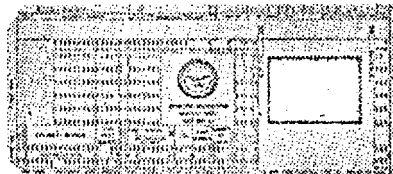
### Building Lyndon Johnson



by David Welsh

In Houston's International Airport is an alcove decorated with color portraits of "The 15 Who Made Houston Tick," mostly business tycoons who, as the Chamber of Commerce never tires of saying, "built our city." Among them is George Rufus Brown, custodian of one of the nation's larger fortunes, board chairman of the mammoth Brown & Root Inc., and close friend and business-political associate of Lyndon Johnson. If someone made a list of the 15 men who made *Johnson* tick, George and his brother Herman would be at or near the top. For the Browns were the principal financiers of his early rise to power, and Lyndon is the man who more than anyone else made them rich. Brown & Root's ascension from penny ante Texas road builder to the world's third largest construction company—which numbers among its contracts a piece of the \$1,600,000,000 base construction program in Vietnam—was no accident. It is no Horatio Alger story. It is the story of a politician and a business, on the make together. (Continued in the December issue of *RAMPARTS* magazine)

### Defense Secrets

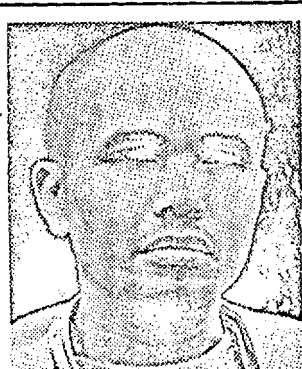


READ DECEMBER RAMPARTS

and David Levine. *Smetana and the Beetles* will be published by Random House at the end of November.

Once upon a time there was a Princess  
Whose name was Smetana.  
She lived in the realm of Marxdom.  
Her father was a Wicked Man.  
He kept her in a Castle named after him;  
It was called the Gremlin.  
The Castle was surrounded by a rusty  
Iron Curtain  
And a Moat full of Krokodiles and  
Vodka.

Gremlin was a Dour Dictator.  
He never played Golf.  
He hated Dogs and Décolletage.  
He frowned at Modern Art, Be-bop,  
and even Little Bo-Peep.



"You must alarm the people of America. Tell them the United States is fighting not only communists but Vietnamese nationalists of all religions, beliefs and classes. All of us are in the fight."

—Thich Tri Quang,  
interviewed by Jonathan Mirsky

READ  
"THE WAR IS OVER"  
IN THE DECEMBER  
RAMPARTS

### I.F. Stone on Che

(DECEMBER RAMPARTS)

Soc. 4.01.2 - Twenty

LETTERS TO  
A FRIEND

Continued



He never smiled, except at Smetana.  
He had a bodyguard of Dour Dwarfs  
Called the Cult of Personality Service,  
Or COPS for short.

Gremlin was mean to his Subjects.  
He was suspicious of Foes and Especially  
Friends.  
He fumed and feuded with a Far-Off  
Place  
Widely publicized as Freeland Inc.  
But he was kind to Smetana.  
He carried her around, even as a Big  
Girl.



At night she sat on his Knee  
And he read her Grimm Fairy Tales and  
Bedtime Dogmas.

Once he sang Happy Birthday to her  
(in her native dialectic).  
He gave her a Sailor Suit and wrote her  
Friendly Letters  
That began, "My Darling  
Gremlinskaya ..."  
It was not a Healthy Relationship.

Gremlin wanted to keep his little  
Castle-Keeper  
And brooded when she grew up and  
Up and UP.

One day Smetana met a Prince  
Charminsky  
Who was very Cosmopolitan.  
He showed her the film "Snow White  
and the Seven Dwarfs"  
And other Hollywood Pixie-Flix.  
Gremlin's COPS had bugged the  
Projection Room.

He gave Smetana two slaps and the  
Prince eleven years.

To get Smetana's mind on Other Things,  
Gremlin gave her a Charge Account  
At Gloom Department Store;  
Made her a student at Gremlingrad U.;  
Let her cook, play the Harp and darn  
His Socks.

It proved a flop.  
He found her marching with the  
Gremlin Guard.  
"Nyet! Nyet! NYET!" he stormed.  
"A Princess has her rights!" she  
answered back.  
"You Old Bolsheviks dated in your  
Day!"

There came a day when Gremlin Passed  
Away.

His COPS and Krokadiles skipped town  
(Continued in the December issue  
of RAMPARTS magazine, page 72.)

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[Cont'd.]

Gentlemen; Please send me the full text of "Smetana and The Beetles" surrounded  
by the rest of the December issue of RAMPARTS; including "Building LBJ" by  
David Welsh, "The War Is Over" by Jonathan Mirsky, "Eric Hoffer, the Wizard  
of Was" by Peter Collier, I. F. Stone on Che Guevara, "The Case for Black  
Separatism" by Robert S. Browne, and much more. While we're at it let's see  
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